

July 2003

SODXO Summer Picnic



The US Air Force entertained us by flying an F117 over the park (the Van Nuys Air Show was running).

Yes, it was a fine day and we look forward to next year.



Soap Box— Words from our President

Ahhh. The thrill of DX!!!

A few months back, on a guiet Saturday night, I was tuning around the bottom end of 40 CW, and heard 3C5XA in Equatorial Guinea calling CQ, and only working Europeans. It was one of those magical nights on 40 meters, where the band is wide open, with the noise and QRM very low, and the static almost sounded like the soothing sounds one hears listening to the kid in college, playing ham ratranquility of the ocean waves gently hitting the beaches on a cool moon lit night....

I am listening, enjoying the music off with my friends. I recalled of CW, almost hypnotized by the music. Then after a few contacts he started calling for W6's only.... Wow, I was thrilled, as I quickly set up the radio for split operations, and fired up the Alpha 87A amp, for the little extra "kick" I wanted to have, to see if I could really get through and snag him. It was one of those special nites on 40 meters. where the band was real quiet. but wide open into Europe and to back to me, slow and steady other places unknown to me...

As I patiently waited for the Alpha to come up to operating mode, I start to drift off, as my mind began to remember some of my early days of hamming, back as a teenager in Detroit, Michigan. Gosh, it almost a life-



time ago... Newly licensed, a dio till 4:00am in the morning, and able to get a couple of hours of sleep, and still go to school, work a job, and goof those magic late nights and early mornings, where I fiddled the dials on my Drake B Line. patiently listening and looking for some exotic DX station to come through the soothing quiet noise we called static.... Tuning, listening, tuning, listening, putting out a CQ DX at the bottom of the 40 meter band, and then.... like music to my ears. I hear my callsign coming from some DX station located somewhere on the other side of the world, in places I had only heard of, calling me, talking to me... What a thrill.

I drift back to now, and the reality of the moment... By now,

(Continued on page 9)

Voice of the Veep



First, I would like to say that Carl & I on June 7 got to teach kids how to send SOS and their names in CW at the Home Depot annual Kids Safety Day. We had 120 kids come through our area and they even got to talk on Echo Link to different states and to England thanks to a couple of our friends, Andy, Becky, Drew, and Jessica. I want to also thank those from my CBARC Club one of which is also a member of SCDXC, Ed Slaughter and the rest of the gang for all their support. We got a couple of the kids interested and their parents are going to bring them by for a look see at our club and possibly start some tech classes. I enjoyed the picnic this year, a little on the cooler side, but the friendship of all that attended was terrific. A big thank you goes out to our Chef Keith K6LD for getting there early and preparing the meat and corn on the cob. Absolutely delicious side dishes by the members and Mel won for his Chili. He will be receiving a Gift Certificate to Black Angus Restaurant. I would also like to say thanks to all the members who volunteered in helping the chef cut the meat and helped BBQ and those who helped put the tables in some sort of sense. We had approximately 65 people

(Continued on page 9)

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M. on July 10, 2003 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot.

Please do not park in the school lot.

See ya there!

MEETING NOTES

de the secretary



Once again we had a great turnout for the annual "Anchors Away" night. We had a lot of good equipment and most of it went home in a different vehicle than it came in.

Skip, KJ6Y did an excellent job filling in for the missing Neil, K6SMF although we did miss Arleen, KF6LAF who usually goes home with a carload quality stuff. Skip did get a little exited when the bidding got in high gear and made me concerned for Len.

W6AUG who was sitting in the front row and was within striking range of Skip's gavel. I thought Len was going to get it on the head a couple of times, Skip really wields a mean gavel when the bidding gets hot and heavy.

Bob "Bubba", W6ZPL learned a couple of valuable auction lessons. One is that you don't leave your bidders number laying on your chair when you get up to get a cup of coffee. No sooner was Bubba out of his chair than Bob, N6OX was using Bubba's number to bid on items. The second lesson Bubba learned was that just because you ride to the auction with someone does not mean they won't bid against you. Or in this case three someone's. Bubba opened the bidding on a very nice PK-232MBX, the next thing you know his three "friends" were bidding against him. This is a really mean thing to do and I think all three of these guys should be ashamed of themselves. I know I'm ashamed and I promise not to do it again... at least till next year.

The most surprised person at the auction was Wayne, W6IRD when his XYL Sharon started bidding on three old Fluke DVM's. From the look on Wayne's face I don't think he had room for them in the shop.

We had a fun day in the park at the picnic and Cathy, K6VC did a great job organizing everything. Also a **BIG** thank you to Keith, K6LD for all his hard work at the BBQ. I also want to thank HRO for their help with the FT-857 and www.hamstore.com for the Lite Flares. Be sure to stop or surf in and thank them for their support of the SCDXC. I look forward to seeing everyone at the July meeting.

73, DE Jim, N6DHZ

SUMMER BASH

The 2003 Summer Bash will again be held at the QTH of W6YA in Leucadia.

It is sponsored by the San Diego DX Club. It will be August 24 at 1:00 PM. Food and refreshments are provided. All DXers and contesters are invited. Please note the directions to my house, as we have some local access problems with the city of Encinitas which have not yet been resolved.

Take I-5 south to Leucadia Blvd (one exit past La Costa). From San Diego go one exit past Encinitas Blvd. Go east 1/2 mile to Woodley Place (do NOT turn at Passiflora Avenue!!). Turn right and go to the end of the street.

Ignore my mailing address. MapQuest, Yahoo Maps, etc. will get you lost.

If there is no parking, follow signs directing to the LEFT ONLY. Please make no attempt to park ar access the dirt road on the west side. Parking will be along the next street over on the east side. When you leave, follow this street (Sidonia) south around the curve and to the west. Turn right at the stop sign (Saxony) and left on Leucadia Blvd.

Hope to see you there!!

73, Jim, W6YA



AARRGGGG! How could it happen?

I, the editor, ask to be forgiven!

The great article about Greenland published last month was written by Chuck, KN6H Please — forgive the lousy layout job that covered the last line.

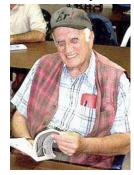
Answer to last months puzzle:.

If N is the number of members needed for break even. A is the number attended over the break even, and each attendee paid 25 - 1.5A dollars, then the total monies collected was (N + A) X (25 - 1. 5A). Without going through the effort to find the maximum of the preceding, the answer is that the total attendance was 17, which was the break even point. Nobody showed up over the break even" So the restaurant made zero profit. The owner was so ticked off at his screwy brother-in-law that his new bride nearly divorced him. He is now planning to renew his ham license for piece of mind.

Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO

Here is the teaser for July: Electronic components produced by automated machinery can be made by the millions today, so their individual costs are miniscule. Some of the comparative costs between various components are amazing-a cheap resistor can often he more expensive than a complicated IC chip. For example. an IC(integrated circuit) chip, resistor and capacitor together cost \$1.00. The capacitor costs more



than 2 ICs, and 3 ICs cost more than 4 resistors. If 3 resistors cost more than a capacitor, how much does each one cost? Hint: No fraction of cents are allowed.

Facts you always wanted to know

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a

second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

Propagation, July 2003

de Shel, W6EL

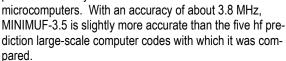
(ed note: This month I asked Shel for permission to reprint some of the text in the original book for MiniProp. It is an interesting story of how this software was developed.)

"I wrote my first propagation prediction program in 1966 to help me work DX. That first program, a computerized version of the cook-book procedure in NBS Circular 462, was written in BASIC on a GE timesharing computer.

During the next several years the program was revised several times to take advantage of improved prediction algorithms contained in several government publications, primarily NBS Monograph 80, ESSA Technical Report ITSA-1, and ESSA Technical Report ERL 110-ITS 78. Additional information was obtained through personal correspondence with one of the authors of ERL 110-ITS-78. Additional program versions were written in BASIC for several computers, and versions were written in FORTRAN and RPN.

All of these programs predicted only signal strength. Muf was predicted graphically, using the two-control-point method with a control point near each end of the path, from world maps with superimposed predicted iso-MUF(ZERO)F2 and iso-MUF(4000)F2 curves.

In December, 1982, MINI-MUF-3.5, developed by the U.S. Naval Ocean Systems Center, appeared in QST. Although it used an incorrect algorithm for control points that are in midnight sun conditions and for some control points that are in polar night conditions, MINIMUF made practical the prediction of F-layer muf on



MINIPROP combines the prediction of signal levels, Flayer muf (using an improvement on the MINIMUF-3.5 model with corrections for the midnight sun and polar night conditions), and E-layer cutoff frequency. To my knowledge, MINIPROP is the most comprehensive propagation prediction program available for microcomputers."

(In a future edition I will reprint an "example" from this first book on MiniProp that will explain how W6EL was the first—and only—W6 to work a "new one"; the Market Reef DXpedition.)





















In the Shack with KJ6ZS

I have been collecting and operating Collins radios since 1987, when I bought my first KWM-2 transceiver. I am an Extra Class amateur radio operator, and have been licensed continuously since 1987, but have been playing with radios since 1945, while living in my country of birth, The Netherlands, or Holland. I did lots of radio repairs for

my neighbors in the street who's broadcast radios were damaged by having been "underground" (literally) because no radios were allowed during the German occupation in WWII. I started my amateur radio days by owing a 19-Set (Sherman Tank radio) and I built my first transmitter using an 807 and other RF components from war surplus material.

I have a member of the SCDX club since the early 90th and obtained my DXCC (# 37,451) in October of 2000. I do have a WAC and WAS and now I am trying to get my 5-Band WAS. I have been a member of the San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club (SFVARC) since 1988, and currently I am its secretary. I was responsible for their Field Day operation last year, which turned out to be a real emergency test, when the designated field day site was closed and became a staging area for the fire department to fight local fires, the day before Field Day operations were to start. We ended up operating (very successfully) from the top level of the Northridge Hospital parking structure.

I was born in Haarlem, The Netherlands, and worked for ITT Gilfillan for 33 years as a Radar Systems Engineer. I am a senior member of the IEEE and a Fellow of the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering (IAE), and have been active in the IEEE's



Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society for many years as its section chair. I have presented several papers on radar at the Tri-Service Radar Conference and the IEEE National Radar Conference, Recently, I was a docent (tour guide) for over 4 years with the Museum of Flying in Santa Monica. The museum is closed at the moment looking for a new (lower cost) location. Meanwhile, I have been married to my wife Barbara for over 42 years; we have three daughters, nine grandchildren and a dog-named Morgan. The home QTH for the

past 35 years has been Woodland Hills.

I enjoy working DX with my Collins KWM-2A transceiver, S-Line or AM station (consisting of a 32V-1 transmitter and 75A-1 receiver). For a linear I can select from one of two 30L-1's or a 30S-1 and for the microphone I have a choice form an Collins SM-1, SM-2 or SM-3. My Collins radio hobby has been stimulated by my membership in the Collins Collectors Association (CCA), which I joined in 1996. The CCA not only provides the nets for the exchange of information of finding a particular piece of Collins ham equipment, but also preserves and archives the vast amounts of technical data that is available from various sources related to the care, repair and use of Collins Radios.









Steve's Corner

European Sojourn



This past May, my wife and I and another couple, decided to vacation in Spain and Portugal. Our idea of a vacation? Try 12 cities and 10 hotels while driving over 2700 kilometers in 21 days! I had brief thoughts of taking a QRP rig along but the pace of the trip and the plan to travel as light as possible eliminated the notion of wire dangling from a hotel room window. I did, of course, keep my eyes open for ham antennas. I saw a TH6 on a tower on top of a

tall building in downtown Madrid on the first day of the trip but I didn't think I could easily track down the correct apartment let alone be lucky enough to find the op at home. The next day we set off driving west. I saw many similar apartment building installations as we traveled but none seemed easy to investigate, that is, until the town of Évora, Portugal.

Évora, roughly 150 km south east of Lisbon, its historical center protected by a vast ring of fortified walls, is typical of "golden age" cities. Conquered by the Romans in 59 BC, Évora gained great importance as a city. Various remains from that period are still visible today, particularly the ruins of a temple from the end of the second century AD, various sections of wall and the gate known as the Porta de Dona Isabel, as well as the

ruins of the city's Roman baths under the present-day Town Hall.

In Évora, relatively small and just an hour out of Lisbon, it was easy to find a hotel and explore the city in the afternoon before moving on to Seville. As we walked the town, suddenly there was a small yagi on top a two-story building and I was right at



front of the door. A few seconds later I was shaking hands with Teles, CT1BT.

The courteous OT welcomed me in perfect English and showed me the QSL on the wall from his first QSO in 1949. His DXCC certificate and endorsements were prominently displayed. He has a Yaesu FT-990 and a Kenwood HF rig as well as internet access. Indeed, I had a nice email waiting for me from him when I returned to LA. In the pictures, that's me with Teles inside his shack and outside his building with his antennas on top.

I did have a ham assignment on this trip. My

(Continued on page 8)





Steve's Corner

(Continued from page 7)

brother Elliott, WA6TLA, wanted a copy of the Spanish language book "DX Y Dxistas," by EA9IE and a copy of the URE's "Radioaficionados" monthly magazine. I checked every bookstore we passed as well as every



newsstand to no avail. I did snag the only copy of the Spanish language "CQ" I saw on the entire trip from a newsstand in Seville. It became a running joke for me to check the newsstands. Most of the vendors looked puzzled and a few laughed as if to say: "Are you nuts?"



We drove from Seville to the Costa del Sol and then on to Granada — the Alhambra is not to be missed! — and Toledo before turning in the rental car to spend the last three days of our trip in Madrid. I asked the hotel concierge to check the bookstores for "DX Y Dxistas," as well as "Radioaficionados," but none were to be found.

Fortunately, Elliott had given me the address and phone number of the URE. On a Monday morning, the very last day of our trip, we took a taxi from the hotel to the east side of the city and within minutes found ourselves on Avenida Monte Igueldo looking for number 102. I looked up and there were the antennas of the national society's station, EA4URE.

We were buzzed in and went up to the offices on the second floor. The book was 15 euros. I bought two — one for my library. That's me with José, EA4BPJ, the books and handful of issues of "Radioaficionados."

"Would you like to see the EA4URE station?" José asked. So we went up to the third floor to see the gear and then outside for a view of the antennas.

I would have loved to have had the time to operate.

Then we were off for our last day of sight seeing.

I've decided that my next trip will include some advanced planning with ham contacts and maybe even that QRP rig.

73, Steve EA/WB6RSE/P

SDDXC Elects New Officers

San Diego DX Club elected the following officers for the club year, July 2003 to June 30. 2003:

President: John Barcroft, K6AM VP: Jim Price, K6ZH

Secretary/Treasurer: Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO

Board Members:

Leon Helms, N6VS - One Year Bud Semon, N7CW - Two Years

Terry Baxter, N6CW - Three Years

Immediate Past President: Arnie Lewin, W7BIA

A DIME HAS 118 RIDGES AROUND THE

(Continued from page 2)

the Alpha has warmed up, and the antenna is pointed in the right direction, so it is time to call. Alan is listening up 2-5 kHz, still looking for W6's, while the Europeans and some East coast stations are calling in a frenzy... I carefully find a quiet spot, up about 3, and tap the keyer once to bring the Alpha up to about a KW of power.... Yep, I am there, in the right spot, ready to go... Alan is working at a pretty good clip. probably about 32-35 wpm, so I tweak up the speed on the electronic keyer, and wait for the next QRZ W6....

Listen, Listen, and Boom! There it is.... Tap out my callsign twice, and listen. Boom! Back he comes, right away with my callsign. We chat for a minute or two, he gives me a FB signal report, and wants to know the rig and antenna. I fill him in on the details, and for a couple of magical moments, I am 18 years old again, back in my basement ham shack in Detroit, with my parents sleeping upstairs, while I am discovering the fun, the magic, and the pure joy of ham radio and DXing.... What a thrill... He asks me for a real signal report and to spot him on packet. We sign off, and he works a couple of additional West Coast stations, and within a couple of minutes, the opening is gone, and he slowly fades, deep, deeply into the QRM and the radio ether Gosh, I love this hobby.....

By the time you read this, both the June Auction and the 2003 Club Picnic will be history. Thanks to Skip, KJ6Y for leading our auctioning efforts this year,

and to Cathy - K6VC, Keith -K6LD, Larry - K6YUI, Jim -N6DHZ and Rich - W6VX for helping to organize another great picnic for the club. Also special thanks to all that brought a great assortment of salads, desserts, cookies. cakes, fruits, candies, and special congratulations to Mel – K6SY for winning the best Chile Dish Award. Both events had great turnouts, and I think a fun time was had by all. Cathy - K6VC walked away with the major raffle prize, another great Yaesu radio to add to her collection! Congratulations Cathy!

I hope to see everyone at the July meeting. It will be on Thursday, July 10 2003. Also, just a reminder about the upcoming Summer Bash. The 2003 Summer Bash will be held at the QTH of W6YA in Leucadia. It is sponsored by the San Diego DX Club. It will be August 24 at 1:00 PM. Food and refreshments are provided. All DXers and contesters are invited, and I am sure we will have a great turnout from our Club.

73 for now de Herb / KG6OK

More de K6VC

(Continued from page 2)

K6VC

attend and also got to see some of the aircraft from the air show fly by including the F17 fighter jet.

The next two month line up is: July 10, 2003 - Charlie, VE7BDC/W6 (HA5CMG) owner of HI-Q Antennas. August 14, 2003 - Box, N6OX will have a presentation on how he and friends got Andy EU7SA to come to the USA and see a different way of living and have fun at the same time. "There are some wild stories here."

See you Next Month, 73 Cathy,

SOUTH-

New 60-meter band

becomes available July 3

The new five-channel 60-meter domestic secondary amateur allocation becomes available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight local time on July 3. The FCC Report and Order granting the allocation was published June 3 in the Federal Register. Federal government users are primary in the 5 MHz band.

The FCC has granted amateurs use of five 2.8 kHz-wide channels with center frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz. The channels will be available to General and higher class licensees. The only permitted mode will be upper-sideband USB phone, and 50 W ERP is the maximum power allowed.

Users of the 60-meter channels should set their carrier frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel center frequency. ARRL suggests restricting transmitted audio bandwidth to 200 Hz on the low end and 2800 Hz on the high end for a total bandwidth of 2.6 kHz. ARRL recommends that amateurs considering modifying existing amateur equipment for operation on 60 meters contact the equipment's manufacturer for advice.



FOR THE FOURTH!

Our kind of Navy?

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers!).

However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the next few days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

GO NAVY!

INFO 4 U

Here is a web site to use in determining a city's LAT/LOG and Altitude:

http://www.calle.com/world/index.html

--

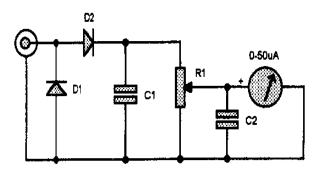
de K6ACZ

de The ARRL 5 MHz allocation update

When the five new 60-meter channels become available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12 AM) local time on July 3, the rules will impose a new record-keeping requirement for hams. The requirement applies only to those using something other than a simple half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation.

According to Part 97.303(s), a half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation will be presumed to have a gain of 0 dBd. "Licensees using other antennas must maintain in their station records either manufacturer data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain," states the newest addition to the FCC's Amateur Service rules.

Because the new rules also require hams to run no more than 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) on the new channels, the choice of antenna becomes an important compliance factor. The FCC rules stipulate, "For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP will be multiplied (by) the antenna gain relative to a dipole or the equivalent calculation in decibels."



Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

The SCDXC generally permits reuse of any article in the Newsletter as long as the newsletter and the article's author are credited. However, some articles may be copyrighted by the author. Please contact the editor.

Club Repeater: W6AM/R 145.48 MHz, 100 Hz PL Club Web Site: www.scdxc.org

Newsletter Editor: Harvey Shore K6EXO 6433 Pat Ave West Hills, CA 91307

(818) 716-5681

E-mail: K6EXO@scdxc.org

FREE

Ads are free to members of the SCDXC.

FOR SALE:

- Icom IC-751 with HM12 mike, manual and Astron RS-35A Power Supply. Asking \$650 obo for the package.
- (2) Drake TR-4 with RV-4 remote VFO, AC-4 Power Supply, manuals, two Turner mikes. Asking \$480 obo for the package.
- (3) Heathkit MT-1 Cheyenne Xmtr, MR-1 Comanche receiver, mike and manuals. Asking \$200 obo for everything.
- (4) Heathkit HG-10 VFO with manual. Asking \$55.
- (5) GAP "Challenger DX" vertical, in storage. Asking \$125 obo.

Contact Chuck KN6H at (310) 325-3184 or KN6H@arrl.net.

FREE

Kitten, female, fixed, 6 mos, Just a plain cat. K6EXO@scdxc.org



Expert Tower and Antenna Installation, Sales and Service New and Used Equipment TV Systems - Satellite TV

Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y 22712 Califa Street Woodland Hills, CA 91367 (818) 887-3569 e mail KJ6Y@aol.com http://members.aol.com/ kj6y/skip.html

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE COMPANY

E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you are changing your e-mail address please inform the club. Send an e-mail to:

Larry, K6YUI@ix.netcom.com

Wanted ô URGENT

The SCDXC Newsletter needs your DX QSLs, Articles, and Photos. You can send stuff to the editor at K6EXO@SCDXCorg.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal Return to club treasurer: Paul Lawrence, N6AV, 2986 Haddington Drive Los Angeles CA 90064			
CALL	NAME		DATE
MAILING ADDRESS			
CITY/STATE/ZIP _			
E-MAIL			
HOME TELEPHONE (()	_ WORK TELEPHONE ()	
SCDXC Dues are \$18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC			